

been in a very slight degree successful, through the impossibility in which our troops are of ever overtaking Them in sufficient numbers to destroy Them. Last year, ninety of our young men joined the french expedition against the renards; but after inconceivable hardships and a journey of more than seven hundred leagues, Their guides led them astray, and they were obliged to make their way back without having caught sight of The enemy save in one instance. A party of twenty-three savages, nearly all of our mission, and seven frenchmen had somehow become separated from The main body when they found themselves suddenly surrounded by a war-party of two hundred renards. Our men would have been destroyed, had it not been for The resolution of the Iroquois captain. "We are all dead men," he said, "if we surrender. There is no help for it; we have to sell our lives as dearly as we can. Let us show these renards that we are Iroquois and frenchmen." Whereupon he led his Warriors to the attack. The enemy could not withstand the first onslaught, but retreated precipitately to their fort. Thirty renards were laid low and ten taken prisoners; our party lost but two frenchmen and one savage.⁴³

The majority of the adults whom we instruct for baptism in the village are slaves taken in war. I had The consolation of administering this sacrament to two, and Reverend father de la Bretonniere to four, during the past year; a dozen or so yet remain, who will receive Baptism at Christmas. It thus happens that it is our warriors who contribute Most to the increase of The mission. The five